

JULY No. 6

10¢

# DIARY LOVES

*Glimpses into the intimate secrets of girls in love*







WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM



# PLAY PIANO THE FIRST DAY..

## OR DON'T PAY!

Here's Your Chance to  
**BE POPULAR!**



*I'M CERTAINLY MISSING A LOT  
OF FUN, AND DATES, TOO.  
IF I COULD ONLY PLAY  
THE PIANO THE WAY  
BETTY DOES.  
'WONDER HOW SHE  
LEARNED SO FAST?  
I'LL ASK HER THE  
FIRST CHANCE I GET.*

*MARY, I NEVER TOOK A LESSON IN MY LIFE - BUT  
NOW I CAN PLAY WELL, THANKS TO THE  
AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR AND  
THE DEAN ROSS SIMPLE ABC METHOD.  
YOU OUGHT TO TRY IT!*

*IF IT'S AS EASY  
AS YOU SAY AND  
IT ONLY COSTS  
I'VE I'LL SEND  
FOR IT  
RIGHT AWAY!*

*GLAD I TOOK BETTY'S ADVICE.  
NOW I GET INVITED  
EVERYWHERE. NO MORE  
WALLFLOWER STUFF  
FOR ME!*

*"I learned to play a song in 10  
minutes."*

*-A C C, Washington*

*"Even if one never played a  
note it is easy."*

*-C G H, New Hampshire*

*"Now I can play sheet music  
beautifully."*

*-E S, New York*

*Hundreds of thankful, en-  
thusiastic letters like these  
are in our files.*

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YOU, too, can play piano with BOTH hands, in no time at all! Thousands have learned to play this fast, easy way. With the amazing, new invention, the AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR there's really nothing to it. Before long you're playing songs everyone enjoys... from Hit Parade numbers and hymns to beautiful old ballads.

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**NO SCALES!  
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PATENTED AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR  
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DEAN ROSS PIANO STUDIOS INC., Dept. 207  
45 West 45th Street New York 19, N. Y.

*THE GIRLS  
ARE WILD  
ABOUT THE  
WAY I PLAY  
PIANO - CAN'T  
THANK DEAN  
ROSS ENOUGH*



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45 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

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Name at your friend's

Address

City & Zone. State.

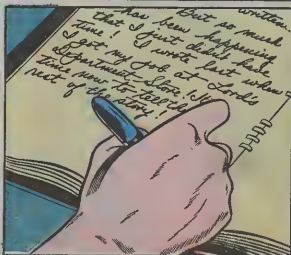
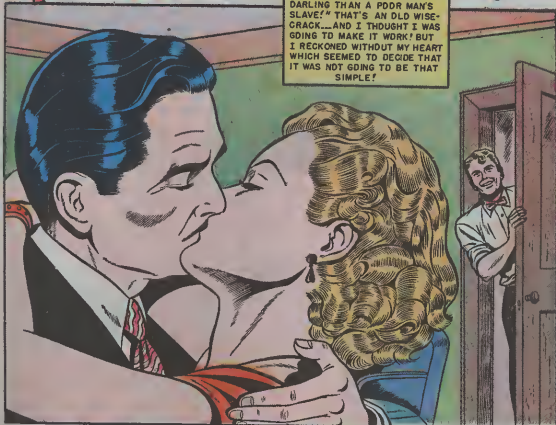
☐ SAVE MONEY! Enclose \$1.98 and we pay postage. Same Refund Guarantee.

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DIARY LOVES

# RICH MAN'S Darling

"I'D RATHER BE A RICH MAN'S DARLING THAN A POOR MAN'S SLAVE!" THAT'S AN OLD WISECRACK...AND I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO MAKE IT WORK! BUT I RECKONED WITHOUT MY HEART WHICH SEEMED TO DECIDE THAT IT WAS NOT GOING TO BE THAT SIMPLE!



I wasn't too happy about having to take that job! Me, Peggy Sears, behind a perfume counter! And after all the talking I'd always done about hard work not being my dish!



GET AN EYFUL OF THAT MINK CAPE, LAURA! WHAT A WASTE ON THAT FRUMP! IT SURE WOULD LOOK BETTER ON ME!

COULD BE! BUT SHE HAS IT AND YOU HAVEN'T!



I'LL HAVE ONE SOMEDAY! I WASN'T CUT OUT TO SPEND MY LIFE BEHIND A COUNTER!

I WASN'T EITHER, BUT I'VE SLOWLY GOTTEN USED TO IT!



YOU MUST TELL ME ABOUT IT SOMETIME! HERE COMES ANOTHER PEST! I'LL TAKE HER!

THANKS! SHE LOOKS LIKE A TOUGH ONE!



SNIFF! H'MM! I WONDER IF THIS SUITS MY PERSONALITY!

HOW CAN IT? IT ISN'T CREASOTE!

But it wasn't all boring and hum-drum! There were the laughs I had with the girls during relief periods... and, better still, the admiration of the men in the store cafeteria!



WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING OUT FOR, PEGGY? I'M YOUR BEST BET FOR THIS SATURDAY NIGHT!

NO, THANKS, JIM! A MOVIE ISN'T MY IDEA OF A BIG TIME!



WHAT DID YOU EXPECT... THE STORK CLUB? I HAVEN'T GOT A MILLION BUCKS!

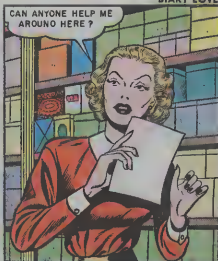
TSK! TSK! TOO BAD! SUPPOSE YOU COME AROUND WHEN YOU GET IT!

No, I wasn't having any part of these thirty-five dollar a week Rameas! Somewhere, I knew, a man with a fat bank account was waiting for me... and until I met him, I was keeping free and unshackled!



SEEING ANY OF THESE FELLOWS ON THE OUTSIDE WOULD BE INVITING TROUBLE... AND I'M NOT HAVING ANY!

But that was my mind at work, not my emotions! One day I met Randy Harlow and the next I was in the midst of a struggle with the warm blooded female in me! It began one morning when I had to go to the stockroom on an errand...



Strange how I was exchanging the usual banter with this man, yet not feeling the usual indifference with which I did it...



As I followed him I watched the muscles bulging under the taut shirt on his back, studied the clean lines of the back of his head... and suddenly I felt a flush of excitement!



# DIARY LOVES

I caught my breath as he suddenly turned to face me! Something about his closeness, the look in his eyes, sent my pulses racing!



WHAT WAS THAT YOU WANTED AGAIN?

CH...CHANEL NUMBER FIVE...AND QUIT KIDDING! YOU REMEMBERED WELL ENOUGH!

The next moment he had me in his arms, was pulling me closer to him...



SURE I DID! I JUST THOUGHT WE WOULDN'T TO WASTE AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS!

YOU... LET ME GO!

But my command wasn't very convincing and I knew it! The strength seemed to go out of my knees as Randy Harlaw's lips came down on mine and I seemed to be suspended in time and space!



When he let me go...

THERE! WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW ME BETTER NOW?

WHY, YOU CONCEITED, NERVOY GARILLA! I OUGHT TO... OH, WHAT'S THE USE? GIVE ME THOSE BOTTLES!



SURE! HERE THEY ARE, HONEY! NICE MEETING YOU!



My face was aflame with anger...and something else...as I stalked out of the stockroom!

WHAT CAME OVER ME...NOT TO PUT UP A STRUGGLE...TO JUST LET HIM HOLD ME AND KISS ME LIKE THAT?



I was to find out soon enough when I caught myself doing other things against my will, against my better judgement!

HI, PEGGY! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

YOU COULD HAVE SAVED YOURSELF THE TROUBLE! I'M GOING HOME!





# DIARY LOVES

HOME? ON A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT LIKE THIS? YOU'D HAVE TO BE DAFFY! WHY, THE PARK'S JUST BEGGING PEOPLE TO TAKE SOME OF THAT WONDERFUL FRESH AIR AWAY!

BUT....

THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH YOU, PEGGY, YOU'RE ALWAYS SAYING "BUT" WITHOUT HAVING THE VAGUEST IDEA OF WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

No I hadn't wanted to go to the park with Randy Harlow! That's what I tried to think! Yet, how delightful were the sights and smells that evening... the color of the trees in the twilight, the sharp odor of the newly cut grass!

PRETTY, ISN'T IT? SORRY YOU CAME?

I JUST WON'T ANSWER HIM! I'D ONLY GIVE MYSELF AWAY! A PARK WAS ALWAYS JUST A PARK TO ME, BUT TONIGHT IT SEEMS SO WONDERFUL... SO ALIVE!



We sat down after a while... on the grass...

He choked off my words with his lips!



GO AHEAD, TRY HATING ME! HA! HA!



The abrupt change of mood, the taunting cocksureness of his words were too much for me! This time it wasn't anger that came, but a sudden pain in the breast and then tears...





# DIARY LOVES

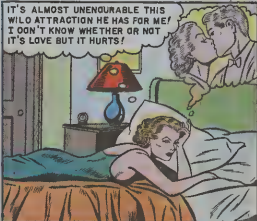
I ran away from Randy that night, left him because I was afraid to discuss what was bothering me... afraid to drop out the fact that I couldn't resist him!



I MUSTN'T SEE HIM AGAIN... I MUSTN'T MUSTN'T!

It wasn't difficult to avoid running into Randy Harlow in a store the size of Lord's but it wasn't easy to stay away from him either!

IT'S ALMOST UNENOURABLE THIS WILD ATTRACTION HE HAS FOR ME! I DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT IT'S LOVE BUT IT HURTS!



Yet, I grimly set about putting him out of my mind!

GEE, PEGGY, YOU'RE LOOKING A LOT BETTER TODAY! YOU REALLY SEEMED TO BE DOWN ABOUT SOMETHING FOR A WHILE!

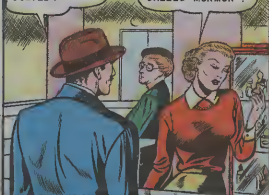
CHALK IT UP TO THE WEATHER, LAURA! A GIRL LIKE ME SHOULD BE CRUISING ON HER YACHT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR!

And then one day something happened that seemed to justify my behavior... my deliberate indifference to insignificant men, my savage struggle against the fascination of a nobody like Randy!



DO YOU HAVE A SCENT THAT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT, MISS, SOMETHING SUBTLE?

I THINK I HAVE JUST WHAT YOU WANT, SIR! IT'S A NEW PERFUME CALLED "MURMUR"!



H'MM! VERY NICE... I'LL TAKE IT!

I'LL HAVE IT IT WRAPPED, SIR!

PEGGY, DID YOU KNOW WHO THAT WAS? OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T! YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH! BUT THAT WAS BRUCE LORO, THE PRESIDENT OF THE STORE!

HUH?



THEY SAY HE DOES THAT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE... JUST BUYS SOMETHING IN HIS OWN STORE LIKE AN ORDINARY CUSTOMER! IT'S SUPPOSED TO GIVE HIM A GOOD IDEA OF HOW EFFICIENT THE HELP IS! FUNNY THING IS WE SEE SO LITTLE OF HIM, MOST CLERKS DON'T RECOGNIZE HIM!

HE'S AWFULLY GOOD LOOKING!



DON'T GET ANY IDEAS, PEGGY! YOU WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE! BESIDES HE MUST BE TEN OR FIFTEEN YEARS OLDER THAN YOU!

THAT'S NO OBSTACLE! I PREFER A MAN WHO DOESN'T BEHAVE LIKE A CONCEITED YOUNG BULL!



My brain was awhirl with ideas! Bruce Lord had looked at me with more than ordinary curiosity and I knew it! Maybe if he hadn't been afraid of being overheard, he would have said something more!

# DIARY LOVES

HE'S HANDSOME AND INTERESTING AND RICH... THE KIND OF MAN I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MARRY! IF THERE WERE ONLY SOME PRETEXT I COULD THINK OF THAT WOULD GET ME IN TO SEE HIM AGAIN!



I looked idly at the sales stub for the purchase Bruce Lord had made ... and suddenly I saw what I wanted!

TWENTY-SEVEN DOLLARS AND FIFTY-FOUR CENTS! LAURA, ISN'T "MURMUR" TWENTY-SEVEN THIRTY-FOUR?



THAT'S RIGHT!

I OVERCHARGED MR. LORD BY MISTAKE! I'D BETTER GIVE HIM HIS TWENTY CENTS BACK RIGHT AWAY!

BUT YOU CAN HAVE IT SENT UP! OH, I GET IT! YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A PITCH, AREN'T YOU?



My heart thumped with anticipation as I faced Bruce Lord's secretary!

TELL HIM THE SALESGIRL WHO SOLD HIM THE PERFUME SIMPLY MUST SEE HIM!



I HOPE IT'S AS IMPORTANT AS YOU MAKE IT SOUND OR WE WILL BOTH BE FIRED!

At last I was in his office, face to face with him... and instantly I knew that my hunch was going to work!

I HAD TO COME, SIR! I OVERCHARGED YOU TWENTY CENTS! IT WAS AN ERROR!



OF COURSE! BUT I'M CERTAINLY GLAD IT HAPPENED! IT SAVES ME THE TROUBLE OF TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU!

PLEASE DON'T THINK I'M TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY POSITION! IT'S JUST THAT AS SOON AS I SAW YOU, I FELT I HAD TO KNOW YOU! IT WAS THE ONLY REASON I MADE THAT PURCHASE!



IN FACT, IT'S FOR YOU! THERE'S NOBODY ELSE I WANT TO GIVE IT TO! AND NOW, PLEASE SAY YOU'LL HAVE DINNER WITH ME!



I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY! I SUPPOSE SO!

I knew what to say well enough! I said what any woman would say under the circumstances... something to cover up her eagerness!



# DIARY LOVES

Sometimes life is maddening in its slowness! Other times it plunges on at a breathless pace! It was only after we made our date that Bruce Lord asked my name! Yet by three o'clock that morning...



PEGGY, THIS HAS BEEN THE MOST WONDERFUL EVENING OF MY LIFE! MAY I SEE YOU AGAIN TOMORROW NIGHT?

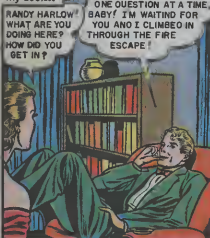
I THINK SO... ER... BRUCE!

Soon I was seeing him almost every night...and enjoying it! Bruce Lord was kind, considerate and wonderful company! How different he was from the wisecracking, brutally boorish Randy Harlow!



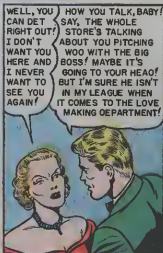
AND HE'LL GIVE ME THE KIND OF LIFE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED!

Then one night, after Bruce had left me at my door...



RANDY HARLOW! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? HOW DID YOU GET IN?

ONE QUESTION AT A TIME, BABY! I'M WAITING FOR YOU AND I CLIMBED IN THROUGH THE FIRE ESCAPE!



WELL, YOU CAN DET RIGHT OUT! I DON'T WANT YOU HERE AND I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

HOW YOU TALK, BABY! SAY, THE WHOLE STORE'S TALKING ABOUT YOU PITCHING WOO WITH THE BIG BOSS! MAYBE IT'S GOING TO YOUR HEAD! BUT I'M SURE HE ISN'T IN MY LEAGUE WHEN IT COMES TO THE LOVE MAKING DEPARTMENT!

Fury made me speechless! None of the things I wanted to say, none of the things I wanted to call him would come out...and the next moment...



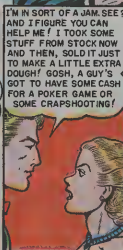
Once again I could feel the strength and will power being drained away from me! Once again I knew that Randy Harlow's power over me was something I did not know how to fight! When he finally let me go...



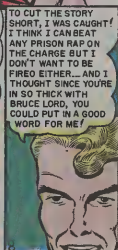
ESOB: DET OUT! LEAVE ME ALONE!

IF THERE WERE ONLY SOME WAY I COULD UNDERSTAND THIS! I DETEST HIM, YET HE ALWAYS MAKES ME DO TO PIECES! WHAT HAS HE GOT THAT AFFECTS ME THIS WAY?

WHY, BABY, THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK TO AN OLD PAL! ALL I WANT IS A LITTLE FAVOR!

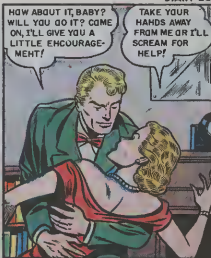


I'M IN SORT OF A JAM. SEE? AND I FIGURE YOU CAN HELP ME! I TOOK SOME STUFF FROM STOCK NOW AND THEN, SOLD IT JUST TO MAKE A LITTLE EXTRA DOUGH! GOSH, A GUY'S GOT TO HAVE SOME CASH FOR A POKER GAME OR SOME CRAPSHOOTING!



TO CUT THE STORY SHORT, I WAS CAUGHT! I THINK I CAN BEAT ANY PRISON RAP ON THE CHARGE BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE FIRED EITHER... AND I THOUGHT SINCE YOU'RE IN SO THICK WITH BRUCE LORD, YOU COULD PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR ME!

As I stood there, listening to Randy Harlow, I was filled with loathing and disgust! This loud braggart, this common thief was the man who had stirred me to the depths!



HOW ABOUT IT, BABY? WILL YOU GO IT? COME ON, I'LL GIVE YOU A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT!

TAKE YOUR HANDS AWAY FROM ME OR I'LL SCREAM FOR HELP!

Suddenly the door opened and Bruce Lord stood facing us...



THAT WOULDN'T BE NECESSARY, PEGGY! I CAME BACK TO TELL YOU SOMETHING AND I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING THIS HOOLIGAH THROUGH THE DOOR! I'LL BE GLAD TO SUPPLY ANY HELP YOU NEED!



GET OUT, YOU CHEAP CROOK, AND TAKE THIS WITH YOU!

As I saw Randy Harlow, slinking toward the door, cringing and cowardly, I knew that at last his hold on me was gone! Never again could I feel anything for this creature with the facade of strength and the fiber of a jelly-fish!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, PEGGY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN! I KNEW FROM YOUR TONE, WHEN YOU WARNED HIM NOT TO TOUCH YOU, THAT YOU WERE THROUGH WITH HIM! WOMEN ARE SOMETIMES SUSCEPTIBLE TO MEN LIKE THAT UNTIL THEY SEE THEM WITH THEIR FALSE FRONTS KNOCKED OFF!



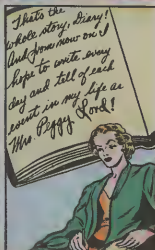
OH, BRUCE, I'M SO GLAD IT'S OVER... SO GLAD YOU CAME BACK!



I DIDN'T COME BACK TO CATCH A THIEF, PEGGY! THE STORE'S SECURITY DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE CARE OF THAT! I CAME BACK BECAUSE I HAD MADE UP MY MIND TO ASK YOU TO MARRY ME AND I FIGURED THERE WAS NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT!

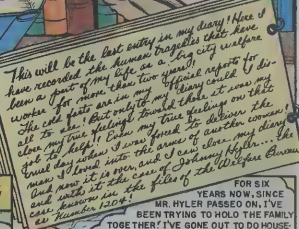
BRUCE... DARLING!

How sweet was the warm kind of love I felt under Bruce's tender kisses, compared to the violent and shattering passion I had known with Randy Harlow! And more than that, once in Bruce's arms, I knew that all along I had wanted him only for himself and not for what he could give me!



That's the whole story, Diary! And from now on I hope to write every day and tell of each event in my life as Mrs. Peggy Lord!

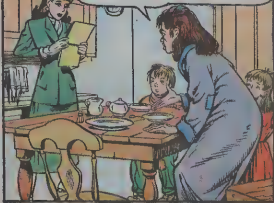


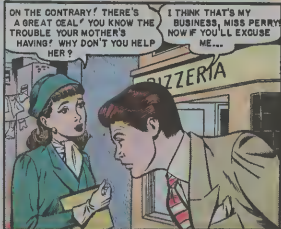
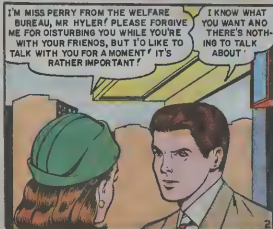
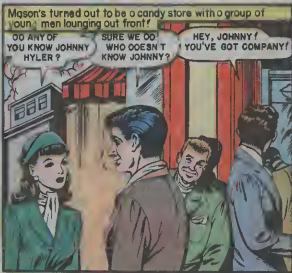
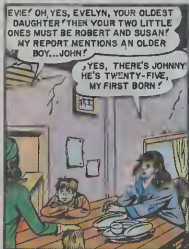


MRS. HYLER? I'M  
JUOY PERRY FROM  
THE WELFARE BUREAU  
MAY I COME IN?

YES, COME IN,  
MISS PERRY! HOPE YOU'LL  
EXCUSE THE LOOKS OF THINGS!

FOR SIX YEARS NOW, SINCE MR. HYLER PASSEO ON, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO HOLO THE FAMILY TOGETHER. I'VE GONE OUT TO DO HOUSE-WORK AND TAKEN IN LAUNORY AND SOME-HOW WE'VE GOTTEN BY! BUT NOW WITH EVIE SICK, I'VE JUST GOT TO HAVE HELP







November 8. Mrs. Hyler has worked so hard to keep the family together all these years! It can't be broken up now! Johnny's the only answer! If only I could make him help them! There must be a way! I'll see Mrs. Hyler again!

DO COME IN, MISS PERRY!

I SAW JOHNNY AT THE... ER... LIBRARY YESTERDAY, MRS. HYLER! I'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM! IS THERE ANYONE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT HE'S PARTICULARLY FOND OF? SOMEONE WHO HAS HIS CONFIDENCE?

WELL NOW THERE'S ANNE LEWIS! SHE AND JOHNNY HAVE BEEN SWEETHEARTS SINCE THEY WERE IN GRADE SCHOOL!

Anne Lewis! Perhaps she'd be able to explain Johnny's behavior! I determined to see her! But on my way to the address Mrs. Hyler gave me...

HURRAY FOR THE COACH! HURRAY FOR JOHNNY HYLER!

HELLO, MISS PERRY! COME TO HAVE ANOTHER TALK WITH ME?

COACHING A BUNCH OF KIDS IN FOOTBALL! HE CAN'T BE SUCH A BAO FELLOW! ANYWAY, WITH HIS OWN FAMILY... PERHAPS ANNE LEWIS HAS THE ANSWER!

The address Mrs. Hyler gave me turned out to be the dress shop where Anne Lewis worked!

YES, MISS PERRY! I KNOW THE TROUBLE MRS. HYLER'S HAVING AND I KNOW THAT JOHNNY COULD HELP!

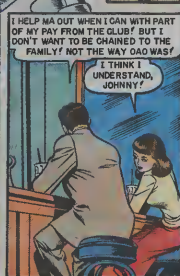
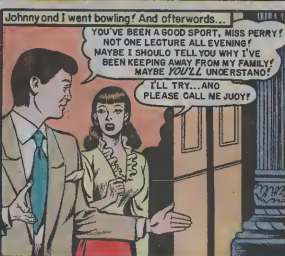
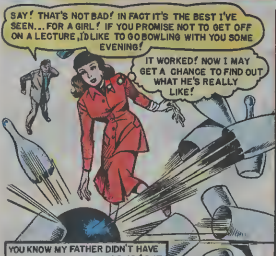
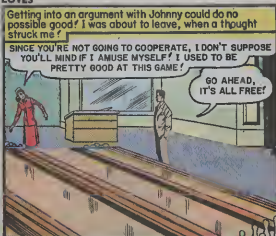
I CAN'T TALK TO JOHNNY ANY MORE, MISS PERRY! EVERYONE THOUGHT THAT WE... WELL, THAT WE'D BE MARRIED SOME DAY! BUT EVER SINCE HIS FATHER DIED, JOHNNY'S AVOIDED ME! AND I KNOW HE SPENDS VERY LITTLE TIME AT HOME! THE ONLY THING HE SEEMS REALLY INTERESTED IN IS COACHING THE KIDS AT THE BOY'S CLUB!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MISS LEWIS! I HOPE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU AGAIN!

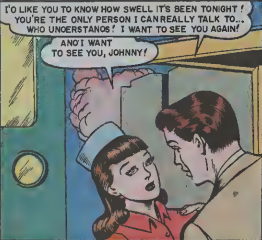
Anne's mention of the Boy's Club was a clue worth following up!

YES, JOHNNY HYLER'S BEEN A BIG HELP TO US IN OUR PROGRAM TO KEEP THE YOUNGSTERS OFF THE STREET! SAY! HERE HE COMES NOW! SHALL I INTRODUCE YOU?

NO THANK YOU! WE'VE ALREADY MET!



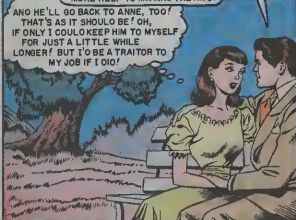
As my bus come into view, Johnny suddenly turned me towards him, and I found myself looking into his deep, moody eyes!



Now that I understand Johnny, I know I can convince him of the importance of keeping his family together! But what about me? I'm not sure how long I can trust my feelings when I'm with him! I've got to set Johnny straight and then leave...before it's too late!



PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, JOOY! PERHAPS I CAN'T REALLY ESCAPE RESPONSIBILITY! MAYBE I'LL GIVE YOUR WAY A TRY AND BE OF MORE HELP TO MA AND THE KIDS!



WELL, I GUESS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO SAY GOOD-BYE! IT WAS NICE KNOWING YOU, JOHNNY HYLER!



It had happened! The thing I'd feared! But I had to find the courage to leave him!



I tried to remember that Johnny was engaged to Anne Lewis! I could never forgive myself if I came between them after winning her confidence and trust because of my job! It would break my heart, but I had to bring them back together!



I CAME TO SAY GOOD-BYE, ANNE! MY JOB WITH THE HYLER FAMILY IS FINISHED! BUT JOHNNY...WELL, HE'LL NEED SOMEONE! HE'LL NEED YOU, ANNE! I KNOW EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT IF YOU'LL TAKE OVER FROM HERE!





# DIARY LOVES

July 18--Again today, as has happened so often during the six months since I've seen him, I thought of Johnny! I can't help thinking of what might have been between us! I must find out what has happened to him... if he and Anne ore happy!

WELL, THE NEIGHBORHOOD HASN'T CHANGED!

DDPS! I BEG YOUR... WHY, MISS PERRY? WHAT ARE YOU DDING AROUND HERE?

I JUST CAME TO PAY A VISIT TO MRS. HYLER! I HOPE YOU'VE BEEN WELL!

OH, I'VE BEEN FINE! AND TERRIBLY HAPPY! YOU KNOW I WAS MARRIED THREE MONTHS AGO!

NO... I DIDN'T KNOW... BUT I THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS...

SAY! HERE COMES JOHNNY! HE'LL BE VERY HAPPY TO SEE YOU!

I REALLY CAN'T WAIT! I'VE GOT TO GO TO SEE MRS. HYLER AND THEN GET BACK TO THE OFFICE!

JUDY! WAIT! I MUST TALK TO YOU!

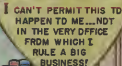
OH, JOHNNY! I'M SORRY TO BE IN SUCH A HURRY! I JUST HAD A NICE CHAT WITH YOUR WIFE AND NOW I'M ON MY WAY TO SEE YOUR MOTHER!

MY WIFE! YOU MEAN YOU THOUGHT THAT ANNE AND I WERE... NO, JUDY! AFTER YOU LEFT, ANNE SOON FOUND OUT HOW MUCH I MISSED YOU, AND THEN SHE CONFESSED THAT SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE, TOO! I'VE BEEN TRYING DESPERATELY TO FIND YOU! BUT THE WELFARE BUREAU WOULDN'T GIVE OUT YOUR ADDRESS!

OH, JOHNNY, MY DARLING! I'VE LONGED FOR YOU SO!

AND NOW NOTHING STANDS IN OUR WAY! WE'LL BE TOGETHER ALWAYS!

Welfare Bureau St  
No. 1204  
*Case closed!*



Thyra Thorne  
PRESIDENT

CONTRACT

DIRE

I'm Thyra Thorne  
It's good executive  
practice to set down  
your thoughts and  
experiences for later  
study...

My grandfather built  
Thorne, Inc. into a  
great mining enterprise,  
as the only third gen-  
eration Thorne, I

have proved my-  
self wise and  
businesslike... Six  
never taken time  
for pills, romances,  
such as occupy  
most young  
women...

Why was Ray Cannon  
so presumptuous  
tonight? Perhaps he  
thought I was meeting

at any rate, as a taxi took us toward my home after working late at the office...

**AFTER ALL, GUY, WHO  
EVER HEARD OF A VICE-  
PRESIDENT TRYING TO  
PAW HIS CORPORATION'S  
PRESIDENT IN A TAXI?**

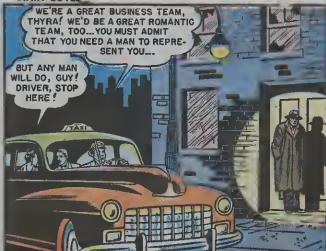
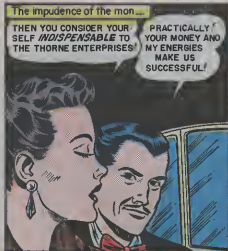
BUT YOU'RE A VERY  
PROVOCATIVE  
CORPORATION  
PRESIDENT.  
THYRA? AND I'M  
THE KIND OF VICE-  
PRESIDENT YOU  
SHOULD VALUE  
ABOVE OTHERS.

THE ANSWER  
IS *NO!* AND  
I DO VALUE  
YOUR WORK...  
BUT NOT  
ABOVE THE  
OTHERS!

DON'T BE QUAIN'T, THYRA! YDU  
CONTRL THE THORNE BUSINESS  
AND FORTUNE...BUT IT TAKES  
A *MAN* TD RUN THINGS! OO  
YOU THINK ID RUN THEM FDR  
YOU IF I DIDN'T ADMIRE YOU?



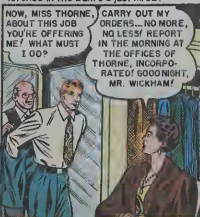
# DIARY LOVES



It was an impulse of the moment...but I had to wither Guy's conceited presumption, and my impulses are generally good ones!

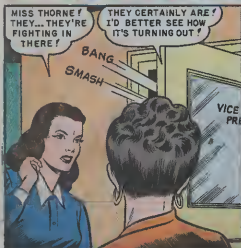


I paid the proprietor to open his store... and new clothes made a satisfactory difference in the bum I'd just hired!





This morning early, in the office next to mine...



But later, when he returned from the conference...

IS THE DEAL CLOSE FOR THAT WESTERN PROPERTY, MR. WICKHAM?

NOT YET, MISS THORNE! I FOUND OUT THAT THE COMPANY OWNING THE LAND IS JUST REDGRANIZING... HAS A NEW GENERAL MANAGER! SO I URGE THAT WE DELAY ACTION UNTIL WE LEARN THE MANAGER'S VIEW ON THE DEAL!



I WANTED THAT DEAL TO BE COMPLETED... IT'S IMPORTANT! AND I DON'T LIKE YOUR GOING AGAINST MY INSTRUCTIONS!

THE POINT IS THIS... THE NEW MANAGER SEEMS TO HAVE BOUGHT OUT HIS PREDECESSOR! UNTIL WE GET HIS AGREEMENT TO RELEASE HIS INTEREST IN THE LAND, THE TITLE ISN'T CLEAR! AND NOBODY OFFERED ANY AGREEMENT FROM HIM!



His explanation straightened the problem out at last!

YOU SEE, A TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE MUST INCLUDE A COMPLETE RELEASE OF ALL RIGHTS! EVEN THE SMALL INTEREST THIS NEW MANAGER HOLDS MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO BLOCK OUR MINING ENTERPRISE... IF SOMEONE GOT NASTY!

IT'S SIX O'CLOCK! LET'S CONTINUE DISCUSSION AT BONHOMME'S CAFE... AT DINNER!



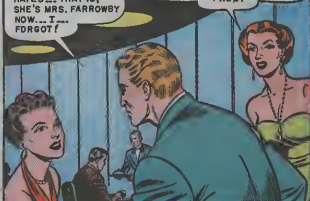
I RECOGNIZE THE DANGER POSSIBILITY, MISS THORNE! YOU SEE I USED TO BE A REAL ESTATE LAWYER!

WHY, IT'S ROD WICKHAM!



MISS THORNE, MAY I PRESENT... AN OLD FRIEND! MISS TINA HAYES... THAT IS, SHE'S MRS. FARROWBY NOW... I... FORGOT!

WHY NOT KEEP FORGETTING THE FARROWBY, ROD? I'VE JUST COME BACK FROM RENO... I'M DIVORCED! FREE!



WOULDN'T YOU JOIN US? I'M AFRAID WE'LL BORE YOU... WE'RE DISCUSSING BUSINESS!

THEN I'D BETTER RUN ALONG! CALL ME, ROD, WHEN YOU AREN'T TALKING BUSINESS!



WHAT AN ATTRACTIVE YOUNG LADY, MR. WICKHAM! APPARENTLY YOU... KNEW EACH OTHER QUITE WELL!

SHE WAS THE REASON FOR MY QUITTING MY LAW PRACTICE AND BECOMING THE RAGGED FOOL YOU SAW WHEN WE MET, MISS THORNE!



SHE JILTED ME FOR THE MAN SHE'S NOW LEAVING! AND I WAS ROMANTIC AND SELF-PITYING... BECOMING A TRAMP... HURT NOBODY BUT MYSELF!

YOU'RE NOT A TRAMP NOW, YOU'RE A VALUABLE MEMBER OF MY FIRM! AND SURELY ONE DISAPPOINTMENT IN LOVE CAN BE FORGOTTEN IN... A NEW HEART INTEREST!



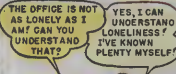
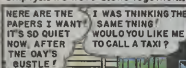
# DIARY LOVES



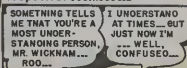
Mr. Rod Wickham was a little too independent to please me just then! I instantly decided on an experiment... crazy and more than a trifle cruel, if it worked...



As I had known, the office was empty... we were alone together...



It was fun in a way, and a sort of a triumph to make him drop his defensive wall of impersonal, respectful coolness...





I'd scared...heavily! I'd broken down his respectful superiority... but somehow, it wasn't just as I'd planned...

REALLY, ROO, YOU CAN CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME NOW! AFTER ALL, WE WEREN'T ON FORMAL TERMS JUST NOW!

YOU SOUND AS IF YOU'VE ACHIEVED ANOTHER BRILLIANT BUSINESS SUCCESS!



AT LEAST, YOU FORGOT YOUR EMBARGO AGAINST ROMANCE! YOU FORGOT FOR THE MOMENT THAT I'M YOUR EMPLOYER!

IT'S RATHER HARD FOR A NEALTHY MALE TO REMEMBER THAT FOREVER!



IF YOU WANT TO KEEP OUR RELATIONSHIP ON AN IMPERSONAL BASIS, DON'T WORK SO HARD AT BEING ALLURING!

WOULD IT BE BETTER IF I USED MUO FOR MAKE-UP AND DRESSED IN BURLAP?



IF YOU FEEL SO RESENTFUL ABOUT IT, JUST FORGET IT!

AS YOU LIKE, MISS THORNE! YOU'RE MY BOSS! IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!



No! It certainly *wasn't* turning out as I had planned...



NEVER AGAIN! THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF!

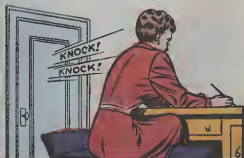
And it hasn't happened again! Days have passed! I've hardly seen Roo...

MR WICKNAM STEPPED OUT OF HIS OFFICE. MISS THORNE! SAID IT'S IMPORTANT BUSINESS FOR THE FIRM!

WHEN HE COMES BACK, TELL HIM NEVER MIND OUR CONFERENCE! I'VE A HEADACHE-- I'M GOING HOME EARLY!



I was wrong! It's heartache, not headache that made me go home! I must stop writing for a moment... someone at the door! Could it possibly be...



KNOCK!  
KNOCK!

# DIARY LOVES

But of the door stood the lost person I expected to see!



PERHAPS... IT MAY BE...

GUY CANNON! I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU!

GOOD! THAT MEANS I CAN DO THE TALKING FOR ONCE!



AFTER YOUR NEW WATCHDOG, ROO WICKHAM, KICKED ME OUT, I MADE A NEW CONNECTION... WITH THE COMPANY THAT HOLDS THE WESTERN LANO YOU NEED FOR YOUR OPERATIONS!

THEN YOU'RE THE NEW MANAGER WHO PAID FOR A PARTIAL INTEREST IN THE LANO!

EXACTLY! AND THAT PARTIAL INTEREST OF MINE WILL KEEP YOU FROM YOUR PROFITS!

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER OFFICIALS OF YOUR COMPANY? THEY WANT TO SELL...



RIGHT! BUT IF I HOLD BACK, IT'S LIKE THE KIO WHO OWNS THE BASEBALL! NO GAME UNLESS I CAN BE CAPABLE! GET THE IOEA, THYRA?

BUT I NEVER DISCUSSED THIS LANO DEAL WITH YOU, GUY!



I HAVE WAYS OF LEARNING WHAT GOES ON IN YOUR MIND, THYRA! THE POINT IS, IF THERE'S ANY DEAL, I'M GOING TO BE INCLUDED... TO MY PROFIT!

I SEE HOW YOU CAN HOLD US UP! THE POINT IS, OUR INTERESTS BLOCK EACH OTHER! YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER BUYER FOR THAT LANO...



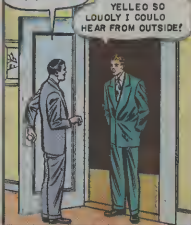
OH, I'D RATHER HAVE YOU BUY IT! BUT MY PRICE IS A PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU! AND NO MORE OF YOUR SNEERS AND REBUFS!

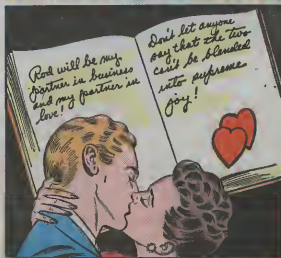
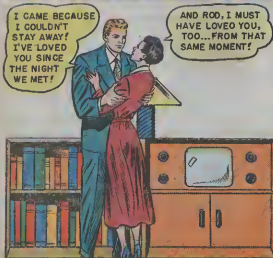
SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR, GUY!



AH! THE NEW WATCHDOG'S SLINKING ON THE DOORSTEP!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME WHY YOU'RE HERE, CANNON! YOU YELLED SO LOUDLY I COULD HEAR FROM OUTSIDE!







# BE INDIFFERENT

**MONDAY**—Aunt Julia was a heart-smasher in her day, and I'm taking her advice. "Mae," she said, "no man is going to trust or adore a girl who shows too plainly that she cares. If you're really attracted to this newcomer to town—what's his name?"

"Steve Williams," I said.

"If you want him, don't show you're interested. Be indifferent."

And so I was indifferent tonight at Dora Latham's card party. I wasn't rude or cold, but just casually polite. The only trouble was—so was Steve just casually polite. He showed twice as much attention to Dora!

**Tuesday**—I wonder if it's working.

Dora and I were eating lunch at the Dixie Kitchen when Steve Williams walked in. I know he saw us, but I also know he wouldn't have paid attention if Dora hadn't called him by name.

He came over to our table and bowed. "Greetings, Dora," he said smiling. Then, looking at me, "I think I've met this lady."

"Mae Morrison," Dora reminded him. "She was at the party last night."

"Oh, yes, I remember," he said, as if he was dim about it. "Dora, may I sit down?"

He sat down and talked most of the time to her. He wanted to pay for our lunch. I thanked him and wouldn't let him. It was easy to be indifferent. I doubt if he and I exchanged more than half a dozen words.

**Wednesday**—Lucy Shannon's picnic today. The whole bunch was there, and Dora had invited Steve Williams. We had our dinner in the grove, then wandered on to the amusement park. Steve was a wonderful item of entertainment—to everyone but me! He scored bullseye after bullseye at the shooting gallery, took Dora on the roller coaster and the ferris wheel—she pretended to be scared and grabbed hold of him as though she'd just won him on a punch board! We danced. Steve asked me for one waltz, and he waltzes like a professional. But he was only polite, no more than that. I'll have to ask Aunt Julia what the next step is.

**Thursday**—"I hope you're not overdoing this," said Aunt Julia today when I called on her. "Don't be so indifferent that you freeze the young man."

"I haven't had a chance to freeze him," I con-

fessed. "He doesn't come close enough to know whether I'm made of fire or ice."

She chuckled. "I remember his uncle Jack, thirty years ago. He was hard to snare—so hard to snare that nobody snared him. But it so happens that Jack Williams wrote to me today, asking if he could call on me the next time he's in town. Maybe, after all these years—"

"You think I can afford to wait thirty years for Steve to come and pay court to me?" I wailed.

"I hope it's a shorter time than that," she said. "But believe me, Mae, I'm just as happy over Jack Williams' attention as if I were a girl like you."

**Friday**—If I die of unrequited love, let them put on my tombstone: **HERE LIES MAE MORRISON, INDIFFERENT TO THE LAST.**

Lucy Shannon called to ask if I was going to Dolly Paradine's party tomorrow night. Steve would be there, she said, and all the girls were wild to dance with him. I said, "Lucy, I won't be at the party. I feel a headache coming on. Please give my excuse to the bunch."

**Saturday**—It's late, but I must write this.

I could hear them having fun across the street at Dolly's. Music, laughter, chatter. I sat in my porch swing and kept quiet as long as I could. Then I started to cry.

Suddenly a voice said, "Mae! Don't cry! Why did you stay away from the party?"

"Because there was no sense in going," I said, wiping my eyes. And Steve came and sat beside me and put his arm around me.

"I must have overdone things," he said sadly. "My Uncle Jack always told me to play indifferent if I really wanted to win a girl's heart—"

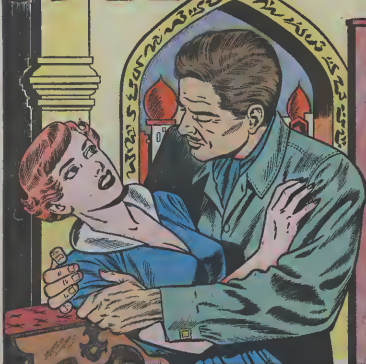
"That's the advice Aunt Julia gave me!" I interrupted.

I could say no more until he finished kissing me. "Then we've been trying the same trick on each other. Listen, I feel like telling Uncle Jack that he almost lost you to me. I wonder where he is?"

"Down the block, calling on my Aunt Julia," I said, and he kissed me again.

"We should have known that indifference isn't a good trick, Mae," he said. "Let's never recommend it to our children."

# SPELL of the EAST



MARCIA CAME TO THIS STRANGE LANO, LITTLE SUSPECTING THE HEARTBREAK AND DISILLUSION THAT AWAITED HER, NEVER DREAMING OF THE MEN WHO WOULD BETRAY HER UNTIL SHE LEARNED THAT, IN THE LANDS BEYOND THE SUEZ, IT IS NEVER SAFE TO LEAD WITH YOUR HEART!

I struggled to control the rage storming within me! I had counted on this as an exclusive interview that I could lord over my superior mole colleagues, but....

Dear Diary,  
After a month here in India, I should be accustomed to the futility of struggling against male superiority, but that interview with the Maharajah had meant so much to me today!

SO THAT'S IT! THE MAHARAJAH BROKE HIS APPOINTMENT BECAUSE HE DISCOVERED I WAS A WOMAN! OF ALL THE....

PLEASE! TRY TO UNDERSTAND! A NEWSPAPER WOMAN! WE DO NOT SUSPECT IT, AND... THE MAHARAJAH COULD NEVER DISCUSS POLITICS WITH A WOMAN!



TOUGH LUCK, MARCIA! YOU ALMOST SCOOPED US SINCE THE MAHARAJAH IS ONLY SEEING THE REPORTER WHO ARRIVES FIRST! BUT WOULDN'T THAT JOB AS SOCIETY EDITOR IN THE STATES BE BETTER FOR...

OH, SHUT UP, CLIFF ROGERS! I'M TIRED OF YOU AND YOUR WISE-CRACKS!

THE MAHARAJAH WILL SEE YOU NOW, MR. ROGERS!



# DIARY LOVES

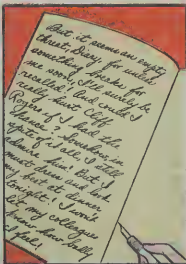


I'M SORRY, MARCIA! IF I HAD KNOWN YOU WERE TAKING IT SO HARD, I...

LET ME ALONE! AND I'LL THANK YOU, MR. ROGERS, IF YOU'LL GET OUT OF MY WAY!

None of the newsmen had been as determined in their efforts to break me as Cliff Rogers had, and now his sympathy seemed the final blow that completed my defeat!

SO HE THINKS I'M THROUGH! WELL, BEFORE I'M FINISHED, I'LL MAKE MR. ROGERS SORRY HE EVER SAW ME!



But, it seems an empty threat, Diary, for unless we soon stir surely be recalled! And could I really hurt Cliff Rogers? I had the right of it all, I still admire him! But I must drive and look my best at dinner tonight! I wish my colleagues I feel!

Dinner was a terrible ordeal! My fellow correspondents were exceptionally entertaining...

AND TELL US, MISS SHEAR, WHAT DID THE MAHARAJAH HAVE TO SAY CONCERNING WOMEN'S RIGHTS?

QUIET PLEASE! THE RENOWNED NEWSPAPER WOMAN, MISS MARCIA SHEAR, WILL NOW SPEAK TO US ON THE TOPIC, "I INTERVIEWED A MAHARAJAH!"



I shouldn't have allowed them to drive me away! Yet, their laughter lashed at me scornfully, until I could stand no more of it!



I rushed out onto the balcony, tears burning my eyes! I didn't realize that Cliff had followed me until...

I'M SORRY, MARCIA! I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY FOUND OUT! I DON'T TELL THEM!

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? AND WHY SO PATRONIZING ALL OF A SUDDEN, MR. ROGERS? IS IT BECAUSE YOU THINK I'M ALREADY FINISHED?



I WISH IT WERE, BUT IT'S REALLY BECAUSE YOU AREN'T FINISHED! MARCIA, I HAVEN'T OPPOSED YOU BECAUSE I RESENTED YOU AS TED AND HARRY DO! I WANT YOU TO BELIEVE THAT!

REALLY? AND WHAT AM I TO BELIEVE, MR ROGERS?

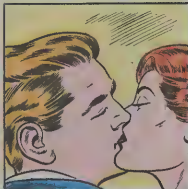


# DIARY LOVES

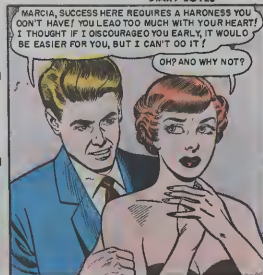
My voice remained cool! And yet, it belied my heart which was filled with a sudden unreasonable surge of warm tenderness as his hand touched my arm!



His lips on mine cut short my protests, and the sudden shock of his confession was enveloped by the powerful wave of feeling that welled up in me!



Their ribald laughter was so symbol of the myriad insults and obuses I had received since I had been here, and it tore all the tenderness from my heart, leaving only bitterness and a desire to hurt this man before me, as he had hurt me so often before!



MARCIA, SUCCESS HERE REQUIRES A HARONNESS YOU DON'T HAVE! YOU LEAO TOO MUCH WITH YOUR HEART! I THOUGHT IF I DISCOURAGED YOU EARLY, IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR YOU, BUT I CAN'T DO IT!

OH? AND WHY NOT?



BECAUSE THIS AFTERNOON I REALIZED THAT I CAN'T STANO HURTING YOU EVEN THAT MUCH, FOR... MARCIA, I LOVE YOU!

BUT YOU NEVER...



YOU NEED TO BE LOVED AND PROTECTED, MARCIA! YOU DON'T BELONG HERE AS A REPORTER! SAY YOU'LL GIVE IT UP AND MARRY ME!



HA HA! HA HA!



HA! HA! I MUST HAVE COME CLOSE TO BEATING YOU OUT TODAY, MR. ROGERS! YOU'LL EVEN MARRY ME TO GET RIO OF ME!

MARCIA, YOU'RE OELIBERATELY MISUNOERSTANOING!

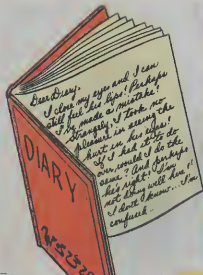


I ONLY UNOERSTANO THAT YOU'VE OONE EVERYTHING TO OPPOSE ME HERE, AND I DON'T THINK YOU'O STOP AT ANYTHING! WELL, I CAN AND WILL SUCCOOO IN SPITE OF YOU!

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, MARCIA! BUT REMEMBER, I'LL BE WAITING!



# DIARY LOVES



A few days later,  
news of a riot  
sent Cliff, Ted,  
and me into a  
little country  
north of India!  
We arrived in  
the morning!

SEEMS STUPID! THREE OF US...  
JUST TO PICK UP THE GOVERNMENT'S  
REPORTS ON WHAT'S HAPPENING!

NOT JUST ROUTINE REPORTS  
TED! WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE IS  
IMPORTANT! WE WANT TO  
REALLY COVER IT!

AND WE'RE TO GET AN  
INTERVIEW WITH THE SHAH!



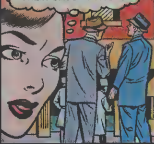
FAT CHANCE! THE SHAH HERE HAS  
NEVER BEEN INTERVIEWED! I HEAR  
HE EATS REPORTERS! BUT OUR  
GIRL WONDER SHOULDN'T HAVE  
ANY TROUBLE WITH HIM!

ALL RIGHT, TED, LEAVE  
HER ALONE! BESIDES,  
WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!



I barely noticed the manner in  
which Cliff had come to my  
defense! I had only ears for  
Ted's scorn, and...

MAYBE I WON'T HAVE ANY  
TROUBLE WITH THE SHAH!  
AT LEAST I'M GOING TO  
TRY! I'LL SHOW THEM WITH  
THEIR SMUG ATTITUDE!



But there seemed little chance of seeing  
the Shah, far at the palace...

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE  
THE SHAH, BUT I SHALL  
TAKE YOU TO AN OFFI-  
CIAL WHO WILL GIVE YOU  
A FULL REPORT ON  
AFFAIRS!

AND WE CAN'T  
EVEN LEAVE THE  
CITY! WE'LL GET  
JUST WHAT NEWS  
THEY WANT US  
TO HAVE!



BEFORE I'M DISCOVERED I MIGHT  
FIND SOMETHING, AND THERE  
CERTAINLY WILL BE NO SCOOPS  
IN THOSE GOVERNMENT  
REPORTS!

I don't know  
what I expected  
to find behind  
that door that  
was ajar in the  
hallway, but it  
was a chance!



A keen edge of  
disappoint-  
ment pierced  
me when I  
realized it was  
only a library,  
but...

KEATS...SHELLY SHAKESPEARE  
WELL AT LEAST I KNOW ONE  
THING...THE SHAH OR SOME  
ONE HERE  
READS  
ENGLISH!

I WOULDN'T  
BE SO CERTAIN  
MOST OF THEM  
HAVE NEVER  
BEEN OPENED



DIARY LOVES



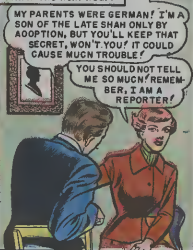
OH, I...

MMM? AMERICAN WOMEN ARE BEAUTIFUL... EVEN WHEN ALARMO! BUT MY NAME IS SAMIP SURAL! I THINK YOU WISHED TO INTERVIEW ME?

HAD I KNOWN THERE WAS SO LOVELY A REPORTER OUTSIDE. I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO SHY! I'M GLAD YOU WERE MORE FORWARD THAN I!



He was anything but what I had expected of the ruler of an Eastern country, and I learned much about him in the next hour!



MY PARENTS WERE GERMAN! I'M A SON OF THE LATE SHAH ONLY BY ADOPTION, BUT YOU'LL KEEP THAT SECRET, WON'T YOU? IT COULD CAUSE MUCH TROUBLE!

YOU SHOULD NOT TELL ME SO MUCH! REMEMBER, I AM A REPORTER!



ALI HERE WILL TAKE YOU TO YOUR HOTEL. I COULD TELL YOU MORE OF MY COUNTRY TOMORROW, IF YOU WOULD BE MY GUEST FOR TEA!

I'D LIKE TO! AND THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!

When I gave them my story that evening, Ted accepted my success good-naturedly, but Cliff's attitude tore me with a sharp painful disappointment and disillusionment!



CONGRATULATIONS, MARCIA! NOW IF YOU COULD PERSUADE THE SHAH TO GIVE US PERMITS TO GET OUT TO THE COUNTRYSIDE AND SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING---

NOTHING DOING! SHE ISN'T GOING TO SEE THE SHAH ANY MORE!

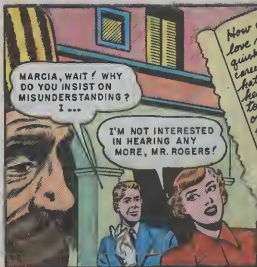


AND WHY NOT, MAY I ASK?

I DON'T TRUST HIM! AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE ANY MORE TO DO WITH HIM! YOU'RE NOT---

NOT CAPABLE, MR. ROGERS? OR PERHAPS YOU'RE AFRAID I MIGHT SHOW YOU UP ON THIS STORY! YOU SEEM DETERMINED TO SEE THAT I DON'T EXCEL YOU! WELL, THIS TIME YOU CAN'T STOP ME!





*How could he love me and yet be so quick to sacrifice my career for his own? I hate him! Yet my heart is twisted and torn by that proposal ... that kiss, whose warm erotic thrill I seem to live over and over again! Oh why can't I forget it now that I know how little it meant to him?*

Sahip took me into the country...

IT IS BETTER TO BRING YOU, RATHER THAN YOUR FRIENDS, MY DEAR! MOST REPORTERS MISUNDERSTAND HOW I TRY TO DO THINGS FOR MY PEOPLE, AND WHY THEY RESENT IT!



In every way, Sahip was helpful giving me the true story of his country...

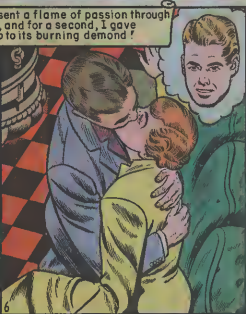
YOU MAY SPEAK WITH ALL THE PEOPLE YOU WISH, MY DEAR! TO GET THE MY INTERPRETER WILL HELP YOU WITH THE LANGUAGE DIFFERENCES!

GOOD! I WANT TO GET THE STORY FROM AS MANY DIFFERENT ANGLES AS POSSIBLE, SAHIP!

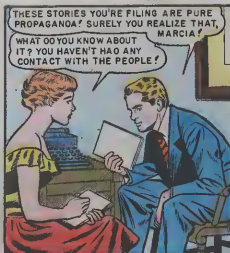


His kiss sent a flame of passion through my veins, and for a second, I gave myself up to its burning demand!

Dear Diary,  
I have sent a number of exclusive stories because of him! I'm sure Sahip is coming to mean more to me than just a story source! And yet...well, take yesterday at tea...



I drew away from Sahip, not able to stay in his arms! Why should I think of Cliff, even now when relations between us were so strained? Only yesterday...



THESE STORIES YOU'RE FILING ARE PURE PROPAGANDA! SURELY YOU REALIZE THAT, MARCIA!  
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT? YOU HAVEN'T HAO ANY CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE!



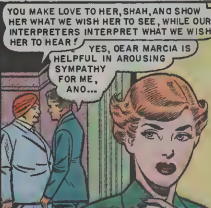
I'VE HAO MORE CONTACT THAN YOU THINK! MARCIA, DON'T BE A FOOL! THAT MAN'S USING YOU!  
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT FROM YOU!

His voice became gentle, and with his touch, my heart trembled! I couldn't trust myself with him! I had to escape!



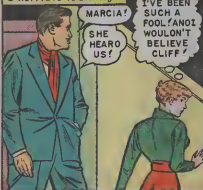
MARCIA, HOW CAN I MAKE YOU BELIEVE ME? HOW CAN I MAKE YOU TRUST ME?  
CLIFF, PLEASE LET ME GO! I--I DON'T FEEL WELL!

That afternoon, I paid a surprise visit to the palace! Voices coming through the open library door made me stop and listen! It was Sahip!



YOU MAKE LOVE TO HER, SHAH, AND SHOW HER WHAT WE WISH HER TO SEE, WHILE OUR INTERPRETERS INTERPRET WHAT WE WISH HER TO HEAR!  
YES, DEAR MARCIA IS HELPFUL IN AROUSING SYMPATHY FOR ME, AND...

My face reddened with burning, scorching shame! Any feeling I may have had for Sahip suddenly became a horrible loathing!



MARCIA!  
SHE HEARD US!  
I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL! AND I WOULDN'T BELIEVE CLIFF!

Cliff found me in my room! I sobbed out the whole story to him!

AND THOSE STORIES I SENT IN, HAVE PROBABLY RUINED ANY REPUTATION I MAY HAVE HAO!  
THEY WERE NEVER SENT, MARCIA! I HELD THEM UP! I GOT THE TRUE STORY OF CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY AREA BY USING A MERCHANT'S PASS! I MEANT TO SUBMIT THE STORY WITH YOUR NAME, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED!

I sat numb with shock! He was going to give me his story, and suddenly I knew what I wanted!

NO, CLIFF! YOU WERE RIGHT! ONE'S HEART HAS NO PLACE IN THIS CAREER, AND I NEED A CAREER IN WHICH THERE IS ROOM FOR NOTHING BUT THE HEART! CLIFF, IF YOU STILL WANT ME...  
MARCIA, DARLING!





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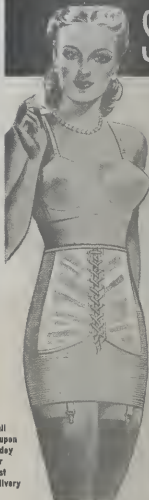
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